

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 04591 151120Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00
PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 /080 W
----- 008654 /46

R 151051Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6349
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 4591

ROME FOR RCA

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, CE
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM AT AIR CEYLON

REF: COLOMBO 4164 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DECEMBER 15 PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT PADDY H. MENDIS, FORMER AIR FORCE MARSHAL OF SRI LANKA AIR FORCE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF AIR CEYLON. MENDIS, WHO RETIRED AS AIR FORCE COMMANDER LAST OCTOBER, SUCCEEDS P.B. KARANDAWALA WHO RESIGNED DECEMBER 14.
2. FOLLOWING PUBLIC CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES ABOUT MISMANAGEMENT OF AIR CEYLON (REFTEL), KARANDAWALA SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION AS SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, AVIATION, AND TOURISM IN MID-NOVEMBER TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO CHAIRMANSHIP OF AIR CEYLON. CONTINUED DEMANDS BY SRI LANKA AIR LINE EMPLOYEES UNION FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF VARIOUS MANAGEMENT DECISIONS HAVE APPARENTLY LED TO KARANDAWALA'S SECOND RESIGNATION WITHIN A MONTH.

3. AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, JAMES LANEROLLE REPLACED E.DES. WICKREMARATNE AS GENERAL MANAGER OF AIR CEYLON.

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 04591 151120Z

LANEROLLE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM UNITED STATES WHERE

HE WAS DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION OF SRI LANKA EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: NEW MANAGEMENT
TEAM OF MENDIS AND LANAROLLE SHOULD BE IMPROVEMENT OVER
PREVIOUS INCUMBENTS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER,
IF BETTER MANAGEMENT ALONE CAN GET AIR CEYLON OFF
GROUND. MOST IMMEDIATE NEED IS FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OOR LEASE
OF MODERN AIRCRAFT.
REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, PRESS COMMENTS, MANAGEMENT, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB04591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-1010
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761242/aaaabjxo.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COLOMBO 4164
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM AT AIR CEYLON
TAGS: EAIR, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006